

**COUNCIL POLICY****CURRENT**

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER RECLAMATION/REUSE  
POLICY NO.: 400-12  
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 28, 1988

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of San Diego currently faces the twin challenges of assuring an adequate future water supply and upgrading its sewage treatment to the secondary level. Federal and state statutes mandate secondary levels of treatment, while the City's position at the end of the water supply system makes future supplies precarious. The City of San Diego's decision to upgrade the level of treatment provides the opportunity to incorporate water reclamation as a major focus of the project. Treatment of sewage within the Metropolitan Sewerage System offers the ability to provide another source of water for the future. The San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) imports approximately 90% of the region's water needs through the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California. CWA currently purchases approximately 30% of MWD's supplies; however, under the Metropolitan Water District Act, the CWA is only entitled to approximately 11% of the supplies available. Region-wide population growth will increase demands for water in the future and MWD is predicting a shortfall in the water supply. It is imperative that water reclamation be implemented to supplement the available supplies and help keep pace with the projected demand.

**PURPOSE:**

To establish policies to encourage water reclamation/reuse.

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the City Council to:

A. Prepare a Reclamation Facilities Master Plan.

1. The Reclamation Facilities Master Plan shall be prepared as an element of the City's secondary treatment/water reclamation facilities planning effort. It shall delineate the location and size of future facilities for conveyance, treatment, and utilization of reclaimed water.
2. The goal of the Master Plan will be to develop and require a plan for major water reclamation throughout the Metropolitan Sewerage System.
3. The Master Plan should incorporate to the extent possible the planning and research work on reclamation already completed.
4. The Master Plan shall delineate present and future reclaimed water sources.
5. The Master Plan shall define present and future reclamation markets.

B. Target Goals for Water Reclamation and Reuse.

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The City of San Diego has established a goal to reclaim and reuse a minimum of 70,000 acre-feet/year (approximately 64 mdg average) of reclaimed water by the year 2010.

**C. Draft a Mandatory Use Ordinance.**

1. A mandatory use ordinance shall be drafted to require the use of reclaimed water rather than potable water where it is available.
2. Dual piping shall be required in new developments if future reclamation facilities are proposed in the masterplan which could serve the development.
3. Turf-related facilities, i.e. golf courses and parks, shall be required to use reclaimed water for irrigation where it is proposed in the master plan.
4. Artificial lakes and man-made decorative ponds where public contact is restricted shall be required to use reclaimed water where it is available.

**D. Require a Mandatory Water Quality Management Plan.**

1. A mandatory water quality management plan shall be established to ensure the quality of the reclaimed water.
2. Industrial wastes which might adversely effect the quality of the reclaimed water shall be identified, monitored, and controlled.
3. If it is determined that the salt discharges from regenerative type water softeners or conditioners adversely affects the quality of reclaimed water, the Water Utilities Director or his/her designee shall introduce an ordinance to restrict the use of, or require a use permit and a treatment fee for the additional costs associated with adequately treating the wastewater.

**E. Public Information**

The City will conduct a public information program which increases public education and awareness of the need for water reclamation. Included will be information about the restriction of regenerative type water softeners or conditioners.

**F. Rules and Regulations**

The Water Utilities Department will work with Building Inspection, Planning and Engineering and Development to develop rules and regulations to implement this policy. This includes drafting plan review and permitting procedures required to implement a mandatory use ordinance.

**HISTORY:**

Adopted by Resolution R-272439 11/28/1988